

North Haven Clean Energy Task Force Meeting Minutes
January 9, 2012

Present: Sarah Baird, Kenny Foscue, Diantha Thorpe, Hugh Davis, Maurice Libson, Letty McPhedran, Caroline Dumont, Mary Mahon and, Nick Gill
Guest: First Selectman Michael Freda

Next Meeting is Monday, February 13, 2012

Minutes of last meeting were approved.

Mr. Freda's Report on the coming energy saving costs and measures

Mr. Freda is working with UI to retrofit town buildings for energy saving lights. He has signed a three year contract with Integrus which will bring a \$1,140,000 reduction for the town over three years because a lower kilowatt hour rate was negotiated.

North Haven now has solar installations at our two Wilber Cross Parkway rest stops which are the first solar rest stops on the parkway. Greenskies Renewable Energy LLC of Middletown and Centerplan did the installation.

The same companies will provide a solar array for the town on the old landfill, otherwise unusable land. The solar panels that produce 1 megawatt will be installed initially, saving the town \$3,163,000 over 20 years. A virtual meter will be set up. North Haven saves costs by producing electricity locally and by not having to pay for transportation costs. The array will grow to 9 megawatts over time. Essentially Greenskies is leasing the landfill ground. Mr. Freda envisions this electricity going to the Water Pollution Control Plant first and later to the Annex and Community Services building. The plan needs to go through Planning and Zoning and several state approvals still. Mr. Freda promised to give us updates. In the future he hopes to save even more energy.

Mr. Freda plans to make North Haven a leader in Connecticut, with a goal of leading the state in producing clean energy. He has already talked with Rabina and Greenskies about incorporating large arrays of solar panels on the Rabina owned former Pratt and Whitney property. Sarah asked how the Task Force could help. Mr. Freda said we should look for unused land and report to him some more possible sites of solar arrays. We all agreed that such a visible array would definitely open the citizens to thinking of more possibilities for clean energy and to more clean energy signups.

Kenny pointed out that points will be available to the town from the installation and we need these. Mr. Freda said of course, and that he would appreciate any information on the point system run by the state. Nick will write up the stakeholders meeting he attended and send it to Mr. Freda. It will be up to us to keep him informed as the point system changes.

Mr. Freda shared that the big businesses in town find the high energy costs in Connecticut make it very difficult for them to stay here. He has talked to Covidien, Mossberg, Sims Metal Management and others. In the future he hopes the town can share the savings with businesses and even homeowners. On Universal drive, it is the landlords who pay the electricity and Target, Home Depot, etc. rent the space. Among the small businesses not many have signed up for clean energy and we would get points for these signups. We need a plan for this, and should work with the First Selectman.

Kenny mentioned that towns have banded together to get grants and hire a shared energy manager. Mr. Freda will inform Roxanne and ask her to be looking for such grants that we could share for an energy manager. In addition, he will talk to Carl Amento of SCRCOG about this.

He says we are in a large council of governments group which should also be able to influence state policies.

Report on the Stakeholder's Meeting

Nick reported things are changing. Our town has complied with the 20% by 2010 by buying green certificates. But by 2015 towns are being asked to actually reduce their energy USE by 30%. Towns will sign a "municipal pledge," there will be annual reporting to CEFIA (CT Clean Energy Finance & Investment Authority), and we will then be able to earn energy efficiency grants. North Haven has 8.34% of residential program participation. We get 6 points for every 1% participation. In this program, we need 100 points to get a grant. Kenny suggested an aggressive plan, a school or neighborhood challenge, perhaps one between the 5 voting districts for using less energy. We are to think how this would work and bring a plan to the next meeting. There will be points for behavioral based events, retroactive to January 2010. These might include Earth Days, working tables at the recycling center, our three sponsored workshops, the signs on the green, providing signups at the polls, Show and Sell, and more. We all need to review what might count. Nick said in the future there will be a computer report monthly on how many points each town has accumulated. We should attach Nick's summary to these minutes.

Covidien Report

Sheri Borrelli of UI will call Hugh with information so he can contact the correct person at Covidien directly.

Compacting Recycling Bins at town parks and fields and larger recycle bins for homes

Caroline reported on her conversation with Lynn Sadosky who does not have the staff to be able to consider pick up of recyclables. Caroline noted that Hamden has a recycle bin outside their library, but it was pointed out that Hamden has a Recycle Coordinator, Pam Roach. The bolted down recycle bin at Peter's Rock is now missing. Caroline will contact Pam to find out how Hamden purchased the community bins. Mary will talk to Mr. Giordano about having Project Green do a study of the school fields and the needs, and she will invite him to the next meeting.

Letty has sent to the Task Force members a cost study of Philadelphia's successful installation of Big Belly solar-powered compacting litter and recycling baskets. The initial costs are large. The savings comes from the dramatically fewer pick-ups needed, saving manpower, truck mileage and gas.

Kenny brought up again the need for larger recycle bins in the household. This would save trash costs for the town, as people would use the single stream recycle to greater effect.

Caroline will make an appointment with Lynn Sadosky to discuss and get information on all these issues and she will learn who has jurisdiction over which fields, so under whose responsibility each falls.

Follow up to Mr. Freda's visit

Kenny offered to write Mr. Freda on all the issues discussed with him, making sure he knows want to work with him to make North Haven an energy leader.

Submitted by Letitia McPhedran